



*News From*

# **Maggie Brooks**

## *Monroe County Executive*

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **SIX KIDS CHOSEN AS BUCKS FOR THE BABY "SPOKESKIDS"**

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks today joined Seneca Park Zoo officials and Gabe Dalmath, Chair of the Bucks for the Baby Committee, to announce the winners of the Bucks for the Baby "Spokeskid" auditions, held last month at Medley Centre.

Exactly 140 children, ages 6 through 12, auditioned for the role of Spokeskid. A selection committee, comprised of Bucks for the Baby Committee members, met in January to choose the finalists. This afternoon, Brooks and Dalmath surprised the finalists by announcing that **all six** kids have been chosen as Spokeskids for the Bucks for the Baby campaign.

*"The Zoo is a tremendous community resource for people of all ages, but above all else, our children. The Bucks for the Baby campaign will be greatly enhanced by the efforts of our Spokeskids, who will work to raise awareness about the baby elephant and build support for this exciting project in their own communities and schools,"* said **Brooks**.

#### **Meet the Spokeskids**

*Seven year old **Alexis DiPasquale** of Rochester attends Neil Armstrong School;*

*Eight year old **Monica Markese** of Hilton attends Northwood Elementary School;*

*Eleven year old **Whitney Alexis Council** of Rochester, attends World of Inquiry School #58;*

*Six year old **Jacob Alan Reynolds** of Rochester, attends Briarwood School;*

*Six year old **Tyler Ray** of Rochester, attends St. John Neumann School;*

*Nine year old **Michael Rodriguez** of Farmington, attends St. Mary's School in Canandaigua.*

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The Spokeskids will be “Community Ambassadors” for the Bucks for the Baby campaign, and will help raise awareness of the anticipated baby elephant and the new Elephant Exhibit scheduled to open in the spring. Spokeskid responsibilities include making appearances at various community events and drumming up support for the campaign in their own communities and schools.

The Spokeskids will also be featured on the Bucks for the Baby website at [www.bucksforthebaby.org](http://www.bucksforthebaby.org).

All 140 kids who auditioned will also be offered a free day at the Zoo in recognition of their talent and support.

The Bucks for the Baby Committee has been asked to raise \$250,000 to support the new Elephant Exhibit at the Zoo while generating community pride and support for the project. The Bucks for the Baby campaign will conclude in August 2006.